(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote ship building in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(c) the proposals received by the ship owner association in that regard;

(d) whether the Government have approved those proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In order to promote Indian Shipbuilding Industry, a revised Pricing Policy for construction of ocean-going vessels in Indian Public Sector Shipyards was introduced in September, 1993 for a period of two years. the Policy, inter alia, envisaged availability of Shipbuilding subsidy of 30% over and above the basic price (20% payable by the Government and 10% by the shipowner) and availability of interest differential subsidy on loan of 9% upto an extent of 80% of the cost of the ship.

No. proposal has been received by the Ministry from the Shipowners' Association in this regard. However, a proposal has been received from the Indian Shipbuilders' Association (ISBA) requesting extension of subsidy scheme which lapsed in September, 1995 and also to include export orders. Their request has been processed and inter-Ministerial consultations are underway.

Irrigation System

1514. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide legal support to the farmers in the management of the irrigation system to ensure better operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a national conference on irrigation has been held in New Delhi recently;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations and the outcome of the conference; and

(e) the follow-up action proposed to be taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Water being a State subject, necessary legal support has to be provided by State Governments through enactments.

(b) Ministry of Water Resources have advised the State Governments to make necessary enabling provisions in their existing Acts for formation of Water Users' Associations. Preparation of a Model Amendment Bill has been taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources through a Consultant in order to provide guidelines to State Governments for facilitating amendments in the existing Acts.

(c) A National Conference on Participatory Irrigation Management was held during January, 20-22, 1997 at New Delhi.

(d) The recommendations are attached as Statement.

(e) Action on the recommendations is being pursued. However, actions for the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management have been taken as under :

Water being a State subject the role of Union Ministry of Water Resources is that of facilitator whereas the implementation of Participatory Irigation Management has to be done by the State Governments. National Water Policy of 1987 recommended that farmers should be progressively involved in the management of irrigation system. Under Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme, necessary guidelines have been issued to participating States to involve farmers at minor (canal) level through formation of Water Users' Associations. Management subsidy is provided to these Associations under the Programme. A series of Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management have been held at National, State and Project levels to create mass awareness among officials and farmers. Training courses on participatory process are being conducted for officers and farmers. States have been advised to form High Level Working Groups to consider policy issues and guidelines on participatory irrigation management. Action has been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare manuals in four regional languages. Work of preparing drafts of model amendments to irrigation acts in order to give legal status to farmers' organisations is in progress. The Ministry of Water Resources has been vigorously disseminating information about Participatory Irrigation Management in various States and other countries to the State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Statement

Recommendations of the National Conference on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) held at New Delhi from 20th-2nd January, 1997.

Government of India

1. Need for a clear statement by Government of India for introducing Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) through a Government Resolution.
2. Setting up of a National Working Group consisting of government officials, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations and farmers to provide guidelines for the implementation of PIM and helping in drafting the policy resolutions.

State Level

1. Need for setting up of High Level Working Groups in the States with similar composition as that of National Working Group to provide policy guidelines as well as help in drafting the State Government's resolutions for adoption of PIM as a policy instrument.

2. Setting up of a Steering Committee at the State Level to coordinate the implementation of the Programme of PIM.

Structural Changes in the Irrigation Departments

Need to induct other disciplines such as social science and economics at appropriate places in the hierarchy of Irrigation Agency for better implementation of the Programme of PIM.

Awareness

Creating awareness among the farmers and the officials of the Union and State Governments about PIM by using various media and techniques of mass awareness by the Union Government and the State Governments. The Irrigation Agencies, Water and Land Management Institutes and other institutions concerned with the development of water resources could be used for the purpose.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of the system should be reasonably good and in running condition. Rehabilitation need not be a precondition for transfer of the system to Water Users' Association but there should be an assurance that it would be taken up within a reasonable period. The cost of rehabilitation should be shared by the Government of India, the State Governments and the Water Users' Associations.

Legal Changes

Amendments in the State Irrigation Acts to give legal status to Water Users' Associations.

Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Engaging NGOs for organising and mobilising the farmers. NGOs could also train the departmental staff for mobilisation and organisation of farmers.

Training

Imparting training to the officials of the Irrigation Agency, Farmers, functionaries of Water Users' Associations and NGOs. There is need to build up capacity of and for strengthening the existing training institutions such as Water and Land Management in relating to PIM.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Need for monitoring and evaluation to take corrective steps during the implementation of the Programme. Suitable mechanism for qualitative and quantitative monitoring should be evolved.

Involvement of Women

It was felt that no Programme of social transformation could succeed without the involvement of women. Therefore, women should be involved in the Programme of PIM.

Visit by British Prime Minister

1515. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent visit to India, the British Prime Minister had talks on the Kashmir issue with the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the Government's response to the British Prime Minister's suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) In response to interest expressed by the British Prime Minister, Prime Minister briefed him about developments in Kashmir following the installation of the elected Government. The British Prime Minister conveyed his concern about the hostages seized by Al Faran, a concern which Prime Minister shared, while reiterating Government's determination to continue to do whatever was possible to locate and free them.

Venue of National Games

1516. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to shift the venue of the 4th National Games scheduled to be held on May 1997;

(b) if so, to which place and the reasons for shifting the venue;

(c) if not, the progress of work made so far at the scheduled venue; and

(d) the assistance extended to the host State by the Centre for organising the 4th National Games ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has informed that the work is progressing satisfactorily at the scheduled venues.

(d) A grant of Rs. 8.00 crores has been released to Government of Karnataka for creation and modernisation of sports infrastructure for the National Games. Besides, a sum of Rs. 1.50 crores has been released to the Sports Authority of India for further disbursement to Government of Karnataka for installation of Synthetic Hockey Field and Athletic Track at Bangalore and laying of Synthetic Surfaces for two indoor halls at Bangalore and Mysore.

[Translation]

Reservoir Scheme in Bihar

1517. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :